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ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. SHUMAN

A Soviet defector, calling for a return to the anti-communist era of Sen. Joseph McCarthy, said the American news and entertainment media have demoralized the nation.

''There is an old joke that says the three oldest professions are prostitution, journalism and espionage,'' Tomas Shuman said Wednesday night at a meeting of the local chapter of the John Birch Society.

''Soviet journalism combines espionage with journalism. American journalism combines prostitution with journalism.''

Shuman, 45, a former KGB agent and Soviet propagandist, defected to the United States in 1969. Since that time, he has been speaking about Marxism and the Soviet ability to manipulate U.S. mass media.

''I'm proud to be McCarthyist,'' he said, referring to the late senator from Wisconsin who led anti-communist efforts in the early 1950s.

Shuman, who received a standing ovation from the approximately 100 people at the meeting of the conservative organization, said during the McCarthy era, the nation was willing to use its strength to oppose the Soviet Union.

That willingness to fight has been replaced by general demoralization resulting from liberties given to such groups as anti-nuclear protesters, environmentalists and homosexuals, he said, and said some freedoms must be curtailed if the nation is to regain its strength.

''You need freedom for your <u>CIA</u> and the police to protect you from terrorists and criminals,'' he said. ''The only thing that can save you is raw force.''